(b) whether the Government have made any plan to re-introduce the import of raw cashew-nuts under the import canalisation scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Data showing import of raw cashewnuts and export of finished cashew products during 1995-96 is as under :-

Qty : Tonnes:
Value : Rs. in lakhs

Import

	Qty.	*Value*
Raw Cashew	2,18,019	74,918.09

Export

Finished Cashew Products	82,385	1,23,106.60

(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta)

(b) and (c). At present, there is no proposal to reintroduce the import of raw cashewnuts under canalising scheme, However, review of export and import policy is an on-going process and changes in it are made as and when considered necessary.

[Translation]

Coal India Limited

2600. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by Coal India Limited per annum on Education;

(b) the policy of C.I.L. for incurring expenditure on Education;

(c) whether any misappropriation of funds allocated for education has come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information received from C.I.L. Rs.8.27 crores and Rs.9.35 crores for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively have been spent by C.I.L. and its subsidiaries on education.

(b) The policy of Coal India Limited for incurring expenditure on education is to the extent of financial grant-in-aid to the educational institutions located in coalfield areas.

(c) Coal India has no specific information regarding any misappropriation of funds allocated as grant-in-aid to educational institutions.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

[English]

Amendment in Indian Patent Act, 1970

2601. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications have been received from Multi-national Companies for product, patents in plarmaceuticals, food and agro-chemicals in anticipation of Faviouable change in the Indian Patent Act, 1970 in accordance with World Trade Organisations guidelines;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending and the dates of their pendency; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Patent Offices have received 893 patent applications in the field of drug or medicine from indian as well as foreign companies/institutions uptil July 15, 1996. The applications for patents will be taken up for examination after January 01, 2005, as per the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement which came into force on 1st January, 1995.

Merger of MTC with MMTC

2602. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mica Trading Corporation has been merged with Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited in terms of the revival package approved by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MITCO) started incurring losses from 1987-88, and was referred to BIFR which declared it sick on 23.4.93. On 8.4.96 BIFR passed an order for the merger of MITCO with MMTC. Details of the revival package include reduction in manpower, upgradation of technology, cost reduction, etc. Accordingly, in terms of the revival package approved by BIFR, MITCO has been merged with MMTC with effect from 2.5.96.

Misuse of Pass Book Scheme by Exporters

2603. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases of misuse of Pass Book scheme by exporters detected during the last three years and the modus operandi adopted therein;

(b) the action taken in each of the cases; and